

## **Status of the Section 28 and State Funding**

The projects funded with state Proposition 204 Category III funds have been delayed due to the time it has taken to sign the agreement with the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation and the need to get approval on budget authority for the Department of Water Resources to act as fiscal agent. The NFWF contract has been signed. The budget authority issue is not yet resolved. An update on this issue will be available at the Roundtable meeting on Friday.

## **Information Updates**

A. Contract Status. The attached table gives the contracting status of the 79 projects. In addition, interagency agreements are being prepared with the agencies involved in the Proposal Solicitation Package.

B. Department of Fish and Game, Selected Fish Screens (A129). The original project included screens on various diversions within the Upper Sacramento River, Mill Creek, Deer Creek, Butte Creek, and the Suisun Marsh. Staff have recently been informed that DFG will no longer divert from Butte Creek (within the Upper Butte Basin Wildlife Area), and as a result no longer needs to screen this diversion point. Therefore, the project cost has changed from \$3,230,850 to \$3,136,370 (a decrease of \$94,480 in State funds).

C. The Nature Conservancy and Wildlife Conservation Board, Cosumnes River Acquisitions (H307). This \$10.3 million project includes acquisition of three pieces of land. Two of those lands (Park and Denier) are currently in escrow. The Nature Conservancy has stated that \$3.4 million must be wired into escrow no later than July 10. The project is being managed by NFWF, and state funds had been allocated to pay for the entire project. However, due to the delay in authorization of state funds, it was recently decided to fund the \$3.4 in acquisition from federal funds. The remainder of the project is not as time sensitive, and will continue to be managed by NFWF using State funds.

D. Napa River Land Acquisition (M131).

Staff have been working with the applicant and will present an update at the Roundtable meeting.

## **Request for a Project Amendment**

While the Policy Group have approved the formation of an Amendment Subcommittee, the Subcommittee is not yet in place and amendment decisions are necessary. Therefore, staff are bringing these issues for Roundtable consideration.

The Nature Conservancy and Wildlife Conservation Board, Cosumnes River Acquisitions (H307). The Nature Conservancy has requested that the original \$10,375,100 budget be increased by \$310,000. There are two reasons for this need. First, there is a \$100,000 funding gap in one of the two properties which are already under option. Basically, TNC will be purchasing 240 acres more than anticipated when the original proposal was submitted. This additional land is a portion of the Denier Family Trust parcel with high ecological values which

the seller had originally intended to withhold for future use as a spray field for disposal of liquids from the Galt sewage treatment plant. However, the seller changed his plan in early 1998, making it possible for TNC to add these 240 acres to the acquisition. This has created a funding shortfall of \$600,000. TNC has covered most of the additional cost with a grant from the State Lands Commission (\$500,000); however, it is requested that CALFED provide the outstanding \$100,000.

For the McCormack-Williamson Tract, TNC is requesting an additional \$210,000 to the \$5 million previously allocated. TNC had originally estimated the purchase price at "approximately \$5 million." The final negotiated figure, which still remains below appraised valuation, is \$5.1 million. In addition, TNC estimates \$110,000 will be spent in staff and service contract costs (attorneys fees, closing fees, Phase I toxics assessment, and appraisal fees), and is requesting that CALFED cover this overage.

Staff recommendation: Approve the additional \$310,000.

### **Suggestions for the Tracking System**

Pat Rivera has been working with Tom Zuckerman and Hari Modi to revise the reporting formats for the tracking system. An update will be presented at the Roundtable meeting.

### **Suggestions for Changes to the Congressional Quarterly Report Format**

Several suggestions have been developed to improve the quarterly reports currently being prepared for Congress. These suggestions include:

- Adding a section on planned accomplishments for the next quarter,
- Include more information on program. Examples include description of Proposal Solicitation Package, development of drought reserve program.
- Show steps to decision making process to give a better idea of where projects are in the process. The implementation update table shows some additional information on each project to give Roundtable members an idea what this could look like.

Additional suggestions will be solicited at the Roundtable meeting.